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### **REMARKS**

This response is intended as a full and complete response to the non-final Office Action mailed October 3, 2005. In the Office Action, the Examiner notes that claims 1-20 are pending, of which claims 1-10 and 15-20 are rejected and claims 11-14 are objected to.

By this response, Applicants have cancelled claim 10 and amended claims 1, 11 and 15-20. Claims 2-9 and 12-14 continue unamended.

In view of both the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103. Thus, Applicants believe that all of the claims are now in allowable form.

It is to be understood that Applicants, by amending the claims, do not acquiesce to the Examiner's characterizations of the art of record or to Applicants' subject matter recited in the pending claims. Further, Applicants are not acquiescing to the Examiner's statements as to the applicability of the art of record to the pending claims by filing the instant responsive amendments.

### **REJECTIONS**

#### **35 U.S.C. §103**

##### **Claims 1, 8-10 and 16-19**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 8-10 and 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Petersen (U.S. 6,574,221, hereinafter "Petersen") in view of Kamitani (U.S. 2001/056529, hereinafter "Kamitani"). However, to further the prosecution of this patent application, Applicants have amended the independent claims in conformance with the Examiner's indication of allowability. In view of the cancellation of claim 10 and the amendments made to claims 11 and 16-19 it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is now moot.

Specifically, claim 11 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 10, which amended claim has been deemed allowable by the Examiner. Similarly, claims 1 and 20 have been amended to include the relevant limitations found in amended claim 11. All of the remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from

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claims 1 or 11. Thus, Applicants submit that all claims now pending in this application are allowable.

#### **Claims 2-7 and 15**

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-7 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Petersen in view of Kamitani further in view of Hooper (US 2004/0252686, hereinafter "Hooper"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, to further the prosecution of this patent application, Applicants have amended the independent claims in conformance with the Examiner's indication of allowability. In view of the amendments made to claims 1 and 11, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is now moot.

Specifically, claim 11 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 10, which amended claim has been deemed allowable by the Examiner. Similarly, claim 1 has been amended to include the relevant limitations found in amended claim 11. All of the remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1 or 11. Thus, Applicants submit that all claims now pending in this application are allowable.

#### **ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

The Examiner has objected to claims 11-14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner concludes that these claims would be allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter with respect to these claims. In response, claim 11 has been amended to include the limitations of its base claim (claim 10), thereby conforming to the Examiner's conditions for allowability. In addition, claims 1 and 20 have also been amended in conformance to the Examiner's conditions for allowability by including within claims 1 and 20 the relevant limitations provided in amended claim 11. Finally, all of the remaining claims depend from either claim 1 or claim 11 and recite additional limitations therefrom. As such, these dependent claims are also patentable for at least the reasons associated

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with claim 11. Thus, Applicants submit that all claims now pending in this application are allowable.

### **SECONDARY REFERENCES**

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the Office Action. Therefore, Applicants believe that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this Office Action.

### **CONCLUSION**

Thus, Applicants submit that all of the claims presently in the application, are non-obvious and are patentable under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Eamon J. Wall, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

1/3/06

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